



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ radiation program receives prestigious award

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality received a certificate of recognition today acknowledging the agency's role in radiation control. The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors and the Organization of Agreement States commended Louisiana for providing 42 years of outstanding radiation safety programs for the protection of our citizens, the regulation of radiation sources in our state, and the participation in the Agreement State Program of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the past 40 years.

Radiation is a form of energy and is all around us. Everything around us is made up of small particles called atoms. The atoms in some matter are unstable and can split to form new matter. When this happens, it gives off energy called radiation. This energy can be used to make electricity, to treat cancer and in other beneficial ways.

Radiation sources come from such things as medical and dental x-rays, color televisions, smoke detectors and some watches with dials that glow in the dark. Small amounts of radiation come from nuclear power plants.

"We are extremely proud of this accomplishment. Regulating the safe use of radioactive material and radiation producing equipment is an important responsibility," said DEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel. "I commend the staff members who have worked so diligently to secure the commendation."

DEQ administers more than 540 radioactive material licenses and more than 3,613 x-ray registrations.

-30-

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